IDEM ITERUM:

OR,

The History of Q. *Mary's* Big-belly.

FROM

Mr. *Fox's Acts* and *Monuments* and Dr. *Heylin's Hist. Ref.*

[1688?]

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done, is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the Sun. Eccles. 1. 9.

UPon *Wednesday*, being the 28. of *Novemb.* there was a general Procession in *Pauls* for joy that the Queen was conceived and quick with Child, as it was declared in a Letter sent from the Council to the Bishop of *London.* The same day were present at this Procession ten Bishops, with all the Prebendaries of *Pauls*, and also the Lord Major with the Aldermen, and a great number of Commons of the City in their best Array. The Copy of the Council's Letter here followeth, *ad perpetuam rei memoriam.*

Copy of a Letter sent from the Council unto Edmund Bonner, *Bishop of* London, *concerning Queen* Mary's *conceiving with Child.*

After our hearty Commendations unto your good Lordship; Whereas it hath pleased Almighty God amongst other his infinite benefits of late most graciously poured upon us and this whole Realm, to extend his Benediction upon the Queen's Majesty in such sort, as she is conceived and quick of Child, whereby her Highness (being our natural Liege Lady, Queen, and undoubted Inheritor of this Imperial Crown) good hope of certain Succession in the Crown is given unto us, and consequently the great Calamities (which for want of such Succession might otherwise have fallen upon us and our Posterity) shall by God's Grace be well avoided, if we thankfully acknowledge this benefit of Almighty God, endeavouring our selves with earnest Repentance to thank, honour, and serve him, as we be most bounden: These be not only to advertise you of these good news, to be by you published in all places within your Dioceses, but also to pray and require you, that both your self do give God Thanks with us for this his special Grace, and also give order that Thanks may be openly given by singing of *Te Deum* in all the Churches within your said Dioceses, and that likewise all Priests and other Ecclesiastical Ministers, in their Masses, and other Divine Services, may continually pray to Almighty God so to extend his mighty hand over her Majesty, the King's Highness, and this whole Realm, as that good thing, being by his Omnipotent Power graciously thus begun, may by the same be well continued and brought to good effect, to the Glory of his Name. Whereunto, if we doubt not, ye would of your self have had special regard without these our

diligently continued, we have alſo written theſe our Letters, to put you in remembrance; and ſo bid your Lordſhip moſt heartily well to fare.

Your aſſured loving Friends,

From *Weſtminſt.*
Nov. 27. 1554.

S. Winton, Cancel. *John Barton.*
Arundel. *R. Rich.*
F. Shrewsbury. *Thomas Watthom.*
Edward Darby. *John Huddilſtone.*
Henry Suſſex. *R. Southwell.*

Ye heard a little before the Councils Letter ſent to Biſhop *Boner*, ſignifying the good News of Q. *Mary* to be not only conceived, but alſo quick with Child, which was in the Month of *Novemb.* the 28 day. Of this Child great talk began at this time to riſe in every mans mouth, with buſie preparation and much ado, eſpecially amongſt ſuch as ſeemed in *England* to carry *Spaniſh* Hearts in *Engliſh* Bodies. In number of whom here is not to be forgotten nor defrauded of his condign Commendation for his worthy Affection toward his Prince and her Iſſue, one Sir *Richard Southwell*, who being the ſame time in the Parliament-Houſe, whereas the Lords were occupied in other Affairs and matters of Importance, ſuddenly ſtarting up, for fulneſs of joy burſt out into theſe words following: *Tuſh my Maſters*, quoth he, *what talk ye of theſe matters? I would have you take ſome order for our Maſter that is now coming into the World apace, leſt he find us unprovided*, &c. By the which words both of him, and alſo by the aforeſaid Letters of the Council, and the common talk abroad, it may appear what an aſſured Opinion was then conceived in mens Heads of Q. *Mary* to be conceived and quick with Child: inſomuch that at the ſame time, and in the ſame Parliament, there was eftſoons a Bill exhibited, and an Act made upon the ſame, the words whereof, for the more evidence, I thought good here to exemplifie, as followeth:

The Words of the Act.

ALbeit we the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, have firm hope and confidence in the goodneſs of Almighty God, that like as he hath hitherto miraculouſly preſerved the Queens Majeſty from many great imminent Perils and Dangers, even ſo he will of his infinite Goodneſs give her Highneſs ſtrength, the rather by our continual Prayers, to paſs well the danger of deliverance of Child, wherewith it hath pleaſed him (to all our great comforts) to bleſs her: yet foraſmuch as all things of this World be uncertain, and having before our eyes the dolorous experience of this inconſtant Government, during the time of the Reign of the late King Edward VI. *do plainly ſee the manifold Inconveniencies, great Dangers and Perils that may enſue this whole Realm if foreſight be not uſed to prevent all evil chances, if they ſhould happen: for the eſchewing hereof, we the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, for and in conſideration of a moſt ſpecial truſt and confidence that we have and repoſe in the King's Majeſty, for and concerning the Politick Government, Order and Adminiſtration of this Realm in the time of the young years of the Iſſue or Iſſues of her Majeſties Body to be born, if it ſhould pleaſe God to call the Queens Highneſs out of this preſent life during the tender years of ſuch Iſſue or Iſſues (which God forbid) according to ſuch order and manner as hereafter in this preſent Act his Highneſs's moſt gracious Pleaſure is, ſhould be declared*

it hath pleaſed his Highneſs not only to declare, That like as for the moſt part his Majeſty verily truſteth that Almighty God (who hath hitherto preſerved the Queens Majeſty, to give this Realm ſo good an hope of certain Succeſſion in the Blood Royal of the ſame Realm) will aſſiſt her Highneſs with his Graces and Benedictions, to ſee the Fruit of her Body well brought forth, live and able to govern (whereof neither all this Realm, nay all the World beſides, ſhould or could receive more comfort than his Majeſty ſhould and would,) yet if ſuch chance ſhould happen, his Majeſty, at our humble deſires, is pleaſed and contented not only to accept and take upon him the care and charge of the Education, Rule, Order and Government of ſuch Iſſues as of this moſt happy Marriage ſhall be born between the Queens Highneſs and him; but alſo, during the time of ſuch Government, would by all ways and means ſtudy, travel, and employ himſelf to advance the Weal, both Publick and Private, of this Realm and Dominion thereunto belonging, according to the ſaid Truſt in his Majeſty repoſed, with no leſs good will and affection than if his Highneſs had been naturally born amongſt us. In conſideration whereof, be it enacted by the King and the Queens moſt excellent Majeſties, by the Aſſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, &c. As it is to be ſeen in the Act more at large ratified and confirmed at the ſame Parliament, to the ſame intent and purpoſe.

¶ Thus much out of the Act and Statute I thought fit to rehearſe, to the intent the Reader may underſtand not ſo much how Parliaments may ſometimes be deceived (as by this Child of Q. *Mary* may appear) as rather what cauſe we *Engliſhmen* have to render moſt earneſt thanks unto Almighty God, who ſo mercifully, againſt the Opinion, Expectation, and working of our Adverſaries, hath helped and delivered us in this caſe, which otherwiſe might have opened ſuch a window to the *Spaniards*, to have entred and repleniſhed this Land, that peradventure by this time *Engliſhmen* ſhould have enjoyed no great quiet in their own Country: The Lord therefore make us perpetually mindful of his benefits. *Amen.*

Thus we ſee then how man doth purpoſe, but God diſpoſeth as pleaſeth him. For all this great Labour, Proviſion and Order taken in the Parliament-Houſe for their young Maſter long looked for, coming ſo ſurely into the World, in the end appeared neither young Maſter nor young Miſtris that any man yet to this day can hear of. Furthermore, as the labour of the Lay-ſort was herein deluded, ſo no leſs ridiculous it was to behold what little effect the Prayers of the Pope's Church men had with Almighty God, who travelled no leſs with their Proceſſions, Maſſes and Collects, for the happy deliverance of this young Maſter to come, as here followeth to be ſeen.

A PRAYER made by Dr. *Weſton* Dean of *Weſtminſter*, daily to be ſaid for the Queen's Deliverance.

O Moſt righteous Lord God, which for the offence of the firſt Woman, haſt threatned unto all Women a common, ſharp, and inevitable Malediction, and haſt enjoined them that they ſhould conceive in ſin, and being conceived, ſhould be ſubject to many and grievous torments, and finally, be delivered with the danger and jeopardy of their Lives; We beſeech thee for thine exceeding great goodneſs and bottomleſs mercy, to mitigate the ſtrictneſs of that Law: aſſwage thine Anger for a while, and cheriſh in the boſom of thy favour and mercy our

ing the Wonders, may with joy, laud and praise the bountifulness of thy Mercy, and together with us, praise and bless both thee and thy holy Name world without end. This, O Lord, we desire thee, we beseech thee, and most heartily crave of thee. Hear us, O Lord, and grant us our Petition: Let not the Enemies of thy Faith, and of thy Church, say, Where is their God?

A solemn PRAYER made for K. *Philip* and Q. *Mary*'s Child, that it may be a Male-child, Well-favoured and Witty, &c.

O Most mighty Lord God, which regardest the Prayer of the humble, and despisest not their request; bow down from thine high habitation of the Heavens the eyes of thy mercy unto us wretched Sinners, bowing the knees of our Hearts, and with many and deep sighs bewailing our sins and offences, humbly, with eyes intent and hands displayed, praying and beseeching thee, with the shield of thy Protection, to defend Mary *thy Servant and our Queen, who hath none other helper but thee, and whom, through thy Grace, thou hast willed to be conceived with Child; and at the time of her Travel graciously with the help of thy right hand deliver her, and from all danger, with the Child in her conceived, mercifully preserve.*

It hath seemed good in thy sight, merciful Father, by thy Servant Mary, *to work these Wonders; that is to say, in her hands to vanquish and overthrow the stout Enemy, and to deliver us, thy People, out of the hands of* Hereticks, *Infidels, Enemies to thee, and to the Cross of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ, that of thy Servant thou mightest speak in far Countries. Therefore for these wonderful Works which thou dost to thy Servants, thou art magnified Lord God for ever, and we thy People bless thee the God of Heaven, which hath wrought upon us this great Mercy, and hast excluded from us the Heretick, the Enemy of Truth, the Persecutor of thy Church. We know, we know, that we have grievously (Lord) sinned, that we have been deceived by Vanity, and that we have forsaken thee our God. Our Iniquities be multiplied on our head, and our sins be encreased up to Heaven, and we our selves having offended, and our Princes and our Priests, for these our sins, have deserved an Hypocrite to our Prince, our sins have deserved a Tyrant to our Governor, that should bring our life to bitterness. We be not worthy to have so gentle and merciful a Queen, so godly a Ruler, and finally, so vertuous a Prince; at the very beginning of whose Reign, a new Light as it were of Gods Religion seemed to us for to spring and rise. The Jews did bless the Widow* Judith *with one voice, saying,* Thou art the Glory of *Jerusalem,* thou art the Joy of *Israel,* thou art the Honour of our People, for that thou hast loved Chastity, and thou shalt be blessed for ever.

And we the *English* People with one agreeable consent do cry, Thou *Mary* art the Glory of *England*, our Joy, the Honour of thy People, for that thou hast embraced Chastity, thine heart is strengthened, for the hand of our Lord hath comforted thee, and therefore thou shalt be blessed for ever. But bow down, O most merciful Father, thine ear, and open thine eyes, and behold our Affliction, and our humble Confession. Thou knowest, Lord, that against *Philip*, not by humane, but by thy Ordinance our King, and against thy Servant *Mary*, by thy Providence our Queen, the Restorers and Maintainers of thy Testament of the Faith, and most constant Defenders of thy Church; thou knowest, I say, that against these our two Governors, the

By the Power of their hands they would change thy Promises, and destroy thine Inheritance, and stop and shut up the mouths of them that praise thee, and extinguish the glory of thy Catholick Church and Altar.

It is manifest and plain how many Contentions, how many Conspiracies and Seditions, how great Wars, what Tumults, how many and how great troublesome Vexations, how many Heresies and Schisms (for these be the most ready Devices and evident tokens of Hereticks) for our sins do hang over us, if thy Servant be taken from this life; for we acknowledge that our Lord is omnipotent, who hath pitched his dwelling-place in the midst of his People, to the intent to deliver us out of the hands of our Enemies. Turn therefore thy countenance unto us, shew unto us, O Lord, thy face; punish us for our sins according to thy Will and Pleasure, only now deliver us. We bowing the knees of our Heart, beseech thee, that thou wilt not reserve unto us Punishment for ever, and we shall praise thee all the days of our life. Hear our cry, and the Prayer of thy People, and open to them the treasure of thy mercy, thy gracious favour, the spring of lively Water. Thou that hast begun, make in the hand of thy Servant a perfect work: suffer not, we pray thee, the faithless Rebels to say of thy Servant and her Counsellors, that they have devised matters which they cannot perform: and grant unto thy Servant an happy and an easie Travel; for it is not impossible to thy Power, nor indecent to thy Justice, nor unwonted to thy Mercy.

It is well known unto us how marvellously thou didst work in *Sarah* of the Age of 90 Years, and in *Elizabeth* the barren, and also far stricken in Age; for thy Counsel is not in the power of Men. Thou Lord that art the searcher of Hearts and Thoughts, thou knowest that thy Servant never lusted after Man, never gave her self to wanton Company, nor made her self partaker with them that walk in lightness; but she consented to take an Husband with thy Fear, and not with her Lust. Thou knowest that thy Servant took an Husband, not for carnal Pleasure, but only for the desire and love of Posterity, wherein thy name might be blessed for ever and ever. Give therefore unto thy Servants, *Philip* our King, and *Mary* our Queen, a Male Issue, which may sit in the Seat of thy Kingdom. Give unto our Queen, thy Servant, a little Infant, in fashion and body comely and beautiful, in pregnant Wit notable and excellent.

Grant the same to be in Obedience like *Abraham*, in Hospitality like *Lot*, in Chastity and Brotherly-love like *Joseph*, in Meekness and Mildness like *Moses*, in Strength and Valour like *Sampson*; let him be found faithful as *David* after thy heart; let him be wise among Kings as the most wise *Solomon*: let him be like *Job*, a simple and an upright man, fearing God and eschewing evil: let him finally be garnished with the comeliness of all vertuous Conditions, and in the same let him wax old and live, that he may see his Childrens Children to the third and fourth Generation: and give unto our Soveraign Lord and Lady, King *Philip* and Queen *Mary*, thy Blessings, and long life upon Earth; and grant that of them may come Kings and Queens which may stedfastly continue in Faith, Love and Holiness: and blessed be their Seed of our God, that all Nations may know thou art only God in all the Earth, which art blessed for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Another

O Almighty Father, which didst sanctify the undefiled Virgin and Mother Mary in her Conception, and in the Birth of Christ our Saviour thine only Son; also by thine omnipotent Power didst safely deliver the Prophet Jonas *out of the Whale's Belly; defend, O Lord, we beseech thee, thy Servant* Mary *our Queen, with Child conceived, and so visit her in and with thy godly gift of Health, that not only the Child thy Creature, within her contained, may joyfully come from her into this World, and receive the blessed Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, enjoying therewith daily increase of all Princely and gracious gifts both of Body and Soul; but that also she the Mother, through thy special Grace and Mercy, may in time of her Travel avoid all excessive dolor and pain, and abide perfect and sure from all peril and danger of Death, with long and prosperous Life, through Christ our Lord,* Amen.

It followeth now further in process of this Story, That upon the *Tuesday*, being the 10*th* of *January*, nineteen of the Lower House of the Parliament, with the Speaker, came to *Whitehall* to the King, and offered him the Government of the Realm and of the Issue, if the Queen should fail, which was confirmed by Act of Parliament within ten days after.

Concerning the Child-bed of Queen Mary, *as it was rumoured among the People.*

LOng persuasion had been in *England*, with great expectation, for the space of half a year or more, that the Queen was conceived with Child. This Report was made by the Queen's Physitians, and others nigh about the Court; so that divers were punished for saying the contrary; and commandment was given, That in all Churches Supplication and Prayer should be made for the Queen's good Delivery; the Certificate whereof ye may read before in the Letter of the Council sent to *Boner*; and also the same moreover may appear by Provision made before in Act of Parliament for the Child.

And now forasmuch as in the beginning of this month of *June*, about *Whitsontide*, the time was thought to be nigh that this young Master should come into the World, and that Midwives, Rockers, Nurses, with the Cradle and all, were prepared and in a readiness; suddenly, upon what cause or occasion it is uncertain, a certain vain Rumour was blown in *London* of the prosperous Deliverance of the Queen, and the Birth of the Child; insomuch that the Bells were rung, Bonfires and Processions made, not only in the City of *London*, and in most other parts of the Realm, but also in the Town of *Antwerp* Guns were shot off upon the River by the English Ships, and the Mariners thereof rewarded with an hundred Pistolets or *Italian* Crowns, by the Lady Regent, who was the Queen of *Hungary*. Such great rejoycing and triumph was for the Queens Delivery, and that there was a Prince born: yea, divers Preachers, namely, one the Parson of St. *Anne* within *Aldersgate*, after Procession and *Te Deum* sung, took upon him to describe the proportion of the Child, how fair, how beautiful, and great a Prince it was, as the like had not been seen.

In the midst of this great ado, there was a simple man (this I speak but upon information) dwelling within four Miles of *Berwick*, that never had been before half

Child, Here is a joyful Triumph, but at length all will not prove worth a Mess of Portage, as indeed it came to pass: For in the end all proved clean contrary, and the joy and expectations of men were much deceived. For the People were certified, that the Queen neither was as then delivered, nor after was in hope to have any Child.

At this time many talked diversly. Some said this Rumor of the Queens Conception was spread for a policy; some other affirmed, that she was deceived by a Tympany or some other like Disease, to think her self with Child, and was not; some thought she was with Child, and that it did by some chance miscarry, or else that she was bewitched; but what was the truth thereof the Lord knoweth, to whom nothing is secret. One thing of mine own hearing and seeing I cannot pass over unwitnessed.

There came to me whom I did both hear and see, one *Isabel Malt*, a Woman dwelling in *Aldersgate-street* in *Horn-Ally*, not far from the House where this present Book was printed, who before witness made this Declaration unto us, *That she being delivered of a Man-Child upon* Whitsunday *in the morning, which was the* 11*th. day of* June, 1555. *there came to her the Lord* North, *and another Lord to her unknown, dwelling then about* Old-Fishstreet, *demanding of her if she would part with her Child, and would swear that she ne'er knew nor had any such Child. Which, if she would, her Son (they said) should be well provided for, she should take no care for it, with many fair Offers if she would part with the Child.*

After that came other Women also, of whom, one they said should have been the Rocker; but she in no wise would let go her Son, who at the writing hereof being alive, and called *Timothy Malt*, was of the age of Thirteen years and upward.

Thus much, I say, I heard of the Woman herself. What credit is to be given to her relation, I deal not withal, but leave it to the liberty of the Reader, to believe it they that list; to them that list not, I have no further warrant to assure them.

Among many other great preparations made for the Queens deliverance of Child, there was a Cradle very sumptuously and gorgeously trimmed, upon the which Cradle for the Child appointed, these Verses were written both in Latin and English.

Quam Maria *sobolem, Deus optime, summe dedisti,*
Anglis *incolumem redde, tuere, Rege.*
The Child which thou to *Mary*, O Lord of Might hast send,
To *England*'s Joy, in health preserve, keep and defend.

Out of Dr. Heylyn's *History of the* Reformation. *Pag.* 216.

THE Queen about three months after her Marriage began to find strong hopes, that not only she had conceived, but also that she was far gone with Child. Notice whereof was sent by Letters to *Bonner* from the Lords of the Council, by which he was required to cause *Te Deum* to be sung in all the Churches of his Dioscess, with continual Prayers to be made for the Queens safe delivery. And for example to the rest, these Commands were executed first on the 28th. of *November*, Dr. *Chadsey* one of the Prebends of *Pauls* preaching at the Cross in the presence of the Bishop of *London*, and nine other Bishops, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen attending in their

Scarlet

it was Enacted by the Lords and Commons then sitting in Parliament, "That if it should happen to the Queen otherwise than well in the time of her "that then the King should have the politick Government, Order and "miniſtration of this Realm, during the tender years of her Majeſties Iſſue, "gether with the Rule, Order, Education and Government of the ſaid Iſſue. "Which charge as he was pleaſed to undergo at their humble ſuit, ſo they "altogether as forward to confer it on him; not doubting but that during "time of ſuch Government he would by all ways and means ſtudy, travel, "imploy himſelf to advance the weal (both publick and private) of this Realm, "and Dominions thereunto belonging, according to the truſt repoſed in him, "no leſs good will and affection than if his Highneſs had been naturally born "amongſt us. Set Forms of Prayer were alſo made for her ſafe delivery, and par-ticularly by *Weſton*, the Prolocutor of the firſt Convocation; in which it was pray-ed, *That ſhe might in due ſeaſon bring forth a Child in body beautiful and perfect, in mind noble and valiant: So that ſhe forgetting the trouble, might with joy, love and praiſe*, &c. Great preparations were alſo made of all things neceſſary againſt the time of her Delivery, which was ſuppoſed would fall about *Whitſontide* in the month of *June*, even to the providing of Midwives, Nurſes, Rockers, and the Cradle too. And ſo far the hopes thereof were entertained, that on a ſudden a rumor of her being delivered the Bells were rung, and Bonfires made in moſt parts of *London*. The like Solemnities were uſed at *Antwerp*, by diſcharging all the Ordnance in the Engliſh Ships; for which the Mariners were gratified by the Queen Regent with 100 Piſtolets. In which, as all them ſeemed to have a ſpice of madneſs in them, ſo none was altogether ſo wild as the Curate of S. *Anns* near *Aldersgate*, who took upon him after the end of the Proceſſion to deſcribe the proportion of the Child, how fair, how beautiful, and great a Prince it was, the like whereof had never been ſeen.

FINIS.